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Serial No.: 10/701,089  
Group Art Unit: 2616  
Examiner: Dady Chery

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a system including a plurality of encoders each for receiving a first signal and encoding to generate a respective second signal for sending to a respective subscriber, the method comprising:

receiving, in each encoder, the first signal from a first source, while testing a signal path between the second source and the encoders; and

subsequently a second receiving step of receiving the first signal from a second source.